

go further than this, and admit that Mendelian heredity is altogether inapplicable to much that is found in *Oenothera*. With some of his criticisms of current Mendelian speculation we fully sympathise, as when he writes: " . . . the thing which is called a 'factor' is only a *difference* in the structure of the cell or some part of the cell, and it may apparently be of any kind whatever. That difference has been produced by a change, and the change constitutes what we call a mutation." But it seems to us doubtful whether the *Oenotheras* can rightly be used to show that such a difference, when it occurs, is ever transmitted other than in the Mendelian manner when the mutant is crossed with the type, for the conditions governing the production of germ-cells are clearly so complicated that apparent failure of Mendelian transmission may perhaps be due simply to our ignorance of the processes involved. The right, if unsatisfactory, attitude seems still to be one of open-mindedness rather than of dogmatic conviction in either direction.

The book contains a full bibliography, and is illustrated with many photographs, but these, though generally good, are not of much help in understanding the differences between the various forms. L. D.

Glasgow, MAUD, M.D. *Life and Law*. Publisher: Putnam; 1914; price \$1.25 net; pp. 187.

THIS book is a study of the development of the exercise of the sex function and an appeal for the hygiene of sex. Both from the biological and social points of view, sex and reproduction are of vital importance. Ignorance is responsible for a very large measure of social evil, and it is only by the spread of knowledge as to the causes of prostitution and venereal disease that we can hope for an awakened opinion and a demand for sound sex hygiene.

Dr. Glasgow gives an interesting summary of the evolution of sex, and treats simply and concisely with the physical aspect of the question, including the care of expectant motherhood and pre-natal influences upon the child. Several chapters are devoted to the study of prostitution, and stress is laid upon the inadequate protection afforded to women by the laws of many States in America. Suggestions are made with regard to the amelioration of social conditions which will lead to a reduction of what is called the social evil. The necessity for instruction in the hygiene of sex is emphasised and suggestions are given to parents. I would, however, differ from the author when she declares that instruction in sex should begin as early as three or four years of age. It is quite exceptional for a child to show any curiosity about sex until five or six years of age, and even then, instruction should consist in answering direct questions. It is easy to err on the side of unnecessarily stimulating the curiosity of children about sex. But very few of us would differ from the author in her contention that all children should have instruction from their parents in this most important subject, and that parental instruction should be followed up by teaching in the schools, which can be associated with biological instruction—nature study. Simple facts about reproduction in plant and bird-life make the best foundation for instruction in sex hygiene. Dr. Glasgow gives many useful suggestions which will be of value to both parents and teachers.

ELIZABETH SLOAN CHESSEY, M.B.

Bruce, ADDINGTON. *Psychology and Parenthood*. Publishers: Dodd Mead and Company; 1915; price \$1.25 net; pp. 293.

THE necessity for the better education of parents is universally recognised, by the people at least who are associated with problems of childhood and education, so that this simple text-book for parents is useful by the very fact of its simplicity and the popular style in which it is written. The average parent has no knowledge of technicalities and cannot be expected to grasp more than the simple outline of child psychology. All parents make mistakes in the training of their children, but the more knowledge

they acquire about simple health and hygiene and about the psychology of childhood, the more likely are they to provide a better training, and to ensure a fuller physical, mental and moral development of their children.

The importance of environment is well emphasised in this book. And there is no doubt that the Americans have made considerable headway in such questions as juvenile delinquency and the prevention of crime. Every child, irrespective of his parents, has the right to good training and a healthy environment. We are all apt to take for granted that the child with a bad heredity is not worth while. This little book is valuable in that it provides for the parent of average intelligence and average education a series of studies of the problems associated with childhood. Hysteria in childhood, fear and laziness, are some of the subjects discussed, and some useful hints are given in physical defects and the causes of various nervous conditions. The greatest force in the moral development of men and women is parental training. Whatever makes for the better education of parents is for the benefit of new generations—the generations that are to build a new social structure on the debris of the present age.

ELIZABETH SLOAN CHESSEY, M.B.

Chambers, Mrs. *Letters on Marriage*. London: H. R. Allenson; 1915; pp. 76; price 1s. net.

IF Eugenics is the science that teaches us how to secure the production of a vigorous and satisfactory race, then *Letters on Marriage* may well be recommended to the women members of the Eugenics Education Society. This little book consists of five letters which purport to be written by a motherly friend to a young wife on whom the hope of motherhood has dawned. The form of letters deprives the book of the orderly continuity of thought which it might otherwise possess, but it has the advantage of intimacy and would make the young mother feel that the valuable advice it offers comes straight from the heart and experience of the advisor. We do not entirely agree with the author, but we feel that an honest and successful attempt has been made to put much-needed knowledge into a readily assimilable form and that the simple piety and the elevated moral of the book are well sustained by useful information and sound commonsense.

MARY SCHARLIEB.

Gould, F. F. *Parents' Guide to the Sex-Instruction of Sons and Daughters*. In two parts. Part I.: *Conversation of a Mother and Daughter*. Price 4d. net; pp. 23. Part II.: *Conversation of a Father and Son*. Price 4d. net; pp. 24. London, 1915. Publisher: Henry J. Gibbs.

THESE two pamphlets have the merit of putting preparation for worthy parenthood as the ultimate object of sex-instruction, and are clear in their statement of facts, but they are very crude. At the same time, much of their phraseology is unsuited for parents of elementary school children, for whom they are evidently intended.

V. TRENCH.

Litchfield, HENRIETTA. *Emma Darwin: A Century of Family Letters, 1792-1896*. Edited by her Daughter. Two Volumes. Illustrated. John Murray; price 21s. net; pp. 289 and 326.

It was a happy decision that led Mrs. Litchfield to give the public an opportunity of enjoying these volumes of family letters. Mr. Litchfield, "during the enforced leisure of a long illness," arranged, dated, and annotated the whole series and wrote many of the notes to the earlier chapters, but the actual preparation for press is the work of Mrs. Litchfield, and it is to her that we owe the valuable and well-written biographical sketches of her father and mother intercalated among the letters. The plan of the book is admirable and the arrangement of the letters, with just the right amount of connecting and explanatory matter,